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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,194	07/24/2003	Sankar Sambasivan	7125	2708

22922 7590 06/17/2005

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EXAMINER

STEIN, STEPHEN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1775

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,194

Applicant(s)

SAMBASIVAN ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen J. Stein

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/22/05+4/29/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group I in the reply filed on May 19, 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Information Disclosure Statement

2. It is noted that the citation no. BT on the PTO-1449 submitted by applicants on April 29, 2005 is document number "10/627,194". This cited reference is the instant application's serial number and as such, can not be considered as a reference on a PTO-1449. Accordingly, a line has been drawn through the citation on the PTO-1449.

Double Patenting

3. Claims 14 and 17 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9-11, 12 and 14 of copending Application No. 10/266,832. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it would have been obvious to put the claimed aluminophosphate coating on a metal substrate, since aluminophosphate coatings are known to be conventionally be put on metal substrates as corrosion inhibitors.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claim 13 recites the limitation "The composition of claim 9 comprising a coating on a substrate". This limitation makes the claim indefinite since the preamble of the claim refers to a composition, but the body of the claim recites the limitations of a structure. Does applicant mean to claim an article comprising the composition of claim 9 coated on a substrate?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-8, 14, 16, 17 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,589,324 (Kamo et al.).

Kamo teaches an aluminum phosphate (stoichiometric) treated steel sheet which comprises an iron steel plate with a coating comprising an aluminum phosphate compound

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(without any chloride ions) and inorganic oxide particles (See abstract). Kamo further teaches that the particles of inorganic oxide have a particle size of 1-20nm (nanoparticles) (See col. 3, lines 26-28). Kamo still further teaches that the thickness of the film is 1 micron (See Example 37). It is the examiner's position that the phosphate salt in the coating will react with the iron in the steel substrate to have a bonded interaction with iron oxide formed from the iron in the substrate. The reference still further teaches that a resin coating layer (organic component) is successively laminated over the coating which contains the phosphate compound and inorganic oxide particles (See col. 20, lines 1-3). Kamo finally teaches that the coating may contain pigments (opaque).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 9, 11-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP402142881A (Akebono).

Akebono teaches a composition for coating break pad comprising aluminum phosphate and aggregate which includes carbon particles (See abstract).

Although Akebono fails to teach that the carbon particles are in the nanometer scale range, absent a showing of criticality with respect to the size of the particles, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to optimize the particle size

(a result effective variable) through routine experimentation. It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: While the prior art suggests compositions comprising an aluminophosphate salt and amorphous carbon particles, the prior art fails to further disclose the presence of nanoparticles of a metal compound.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Stein whose telephone number is 571-272-1544. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If the attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones can be reached by dialing 571-272-1535. The official fax number is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 9, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Stephen J. Stein
Primary Examiner
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